

Patent claims:

1. A cellular assay for identifying an agent that modulates T cells comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing primary T cells transfected with a biological active molecule selected from the
5 group consisting of nucleic acid, protein, peptide, polysaccharide and lipid,
 - b) stimulating the transfected T cells of step a) in the absence and in the presence of a candidate compound for a sufficient period of time,
 - c) detecting the amount of a cytokine produced by the T cells and/or the proliferation of the T cells and/or the amount of a reporter molecule,
 - 10 d) determining whether there is a difference in the amount of cytokine produced and/or in the amount of proliferation and/or in the amount of reporter molecule in the absence and in the presence of a candidate compound, and
 - e) choosing an agent from said candidate compound as determined in step d).
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the biological active molecule is a DNA.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the biological active molecule is a protein.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein transfection in step a) is
20 accomplished by use of a non-viral transfection method.
5. A kit for identifying an agent that modulates T cell comprising as components:
 - a) primary T cells transfected with a biological active molecule selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid, protein, peptide, polysaccharide and lipid,
 - 25 b) stimulation means, and
 - c) detection means for cytokines.
6. The use of transfected primary T cells in a cellular screening assay.
- 30 7. The use of transfected primary T cells for biological profiling of compounds.
8. The use of transfected primary T cells in a high throughput screening assay.